THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution of Indo-American Commercial Alliance Board

6770. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-American Commercial Alliance Board has been constituted as reported in the Hindustan Times of 5th May, 1995;

(b) if so, the areas on which two sides have initially agreed to focus at the forthcoming meeting fixed for June 19, 1995 in California;

(c) whether Commercial Alliance is also sponsoring conference in Information Technology opportunities in India; and

(d) if so, how far this Alliance will be useful to India and whether it will encompass trade Association as well as large and small business particularly in food processing, cotton (knitted) yarn, iron ore etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Commercial Alliance will encompass trade associations as well as large and small business, focussing initially on the areas of power, information technology, transportation infrastructure and food processing/packaging. On June 19, 1995, the Alliance is sponsoring a conference on information technology opportunities in India in Santa Clara, California, USA. The Alliance provides a framework for increased interaction between private sector enterprises of both the countries for expanding business relations.

Export Performance of Extreme Focus Products

6771. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 5088 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 1995 and state:

(a) what has been the export performance of these products for the last four years; and

(b) what is being done to step up the exports to of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export performance of Extreme Focus Products for the last four years is as under :—

Year	Export (US$ Million)	Percentage growth
1991-92 . .	639.0	..
1992-93 . .	685.9	7.0
1993-94 . .	788.7	15.0
1994-95 (P) (April-Dec.) .	679.9	23.0

P=Provisional.

(b) Several measures comprising fine-tuning of trade policy and procedural simplification, infrastructural improvements and institutional arrangements were taken by the Government to step up export of Extreme Focus Products. Important among these are introduction of unified market determined exchange rate system in 1993-94, reduction in import duty on specified capital goods from 40 per cent to 25 per cent, reduction in import duty on raw materials in the area of fiscal concessions, measures by RBI to increase availability of export credit at lower rates of interest, opening of Inland Container depots and Container Freight Stations and Institutional arrangements such as the setting

up of six Task Forces for important export sectors covering agricultural and agro-products, electronics and information technology, textile garments and chemicals, pharmaceuticals and granite. Administrative measures comprise setting up of an ERO (Exporters Grievance redressal Cell) to monitor specific exporter complaints for quick redressal.

Proposal to Increase Bilateral Trade between India and Egypt

6772. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase bilateral trade between India and Egypt;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to increase our trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Third meeting of the India-Egypt Joint Commission is proposed to be held shortly. The meeting will consider proposals from both sides to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The previous meeting of the Joint Commission was held in 1988.

(c) It is not possible to make such an assessment prior to the Joint Commission meeting.

विदेशी व्यापार में वृद्धि

6773. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:**
श्री रामजेठमलानी:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान देश में विदेशी व्यापार में निरंतर वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 तथा 1994-95 के दौरान गत वर्ष की तुलना में आयात और निर्यात में प्रति वर्ष कितने-कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन वर्षों के दौरान देश में आयात और निर्यात शुल्कों में भारी कमी की गई है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1992-93 और 1994-95 के दौरान आयात और निर्यात शुल्को की अधिकतम एवं न्यूनतम दरें कितनी-कितनी निर्धारित की गई थी ; और

(ङ) उपर्युक्त वर्षों के दौरान किन-किन वस्तुओं पर न्यूनतम और अधिकतम आयात एवं निर्यात शुल्क निर्धारित किया गया था ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम) : (क) तथा (ख) जी, हां। वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान आयात तथा निर्यात में उनसे पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में डालर मूल्य की दृष्टि से हुई प्रतिशत वृद्धि के आंकड़े नीचे दिए जा रहे हैं —

	आयात	निर्यात
	(%वृद्धि)	(%वृद्धि)
1992-93	12.7	3.8
1993-94	6.5	20.0
1994-95(अ)	21.7	18.3

अ: अनन्तिम आंकड़े

(ग) तथा (घ) वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान असवाब तथा मादक पेय जैसी कतिपय मदों को छोड़कर शेष माल पर अधिकतम आयात शुल्क 110 प्रतिशत रहा था। निर्यात शुल्कों में कोई कटौती नहीं थी। वास्तव में, बिना पालिश वाले ग्रेनाइट और तैयार चमड़े की कुछ खास किस्मों पर 10 प्रतिशत